



**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING  
Friday, July 20, 2001**

**DLNR – Land Board Conference Room  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Colette Y. Machado; Jeffery Y.L. Chang, Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran; Robert J. Lujuwai; Craig Neff; and Burt Sakata

**EXCUSED:** Isabella A. Abbott, Ph.D.

**Staff Members**

**Present:** Bob Armantrout; R. Keoni Fairbanks, Executive Director; Paul Higashino; and C. Kayönohi Lee

**Others**

**Present:** Derek Chow, Corps of Engineers; Jim Froneberger, PUXB; Yvonne Izu, Dep. AG; Noren Kawakami, PacDiv; Manuel Kuloloio, BPI; CDR Norman Messinger, CNRH; Tom McCabe, PUXB; Jim Putnam, PACDIV; MMCM Eric Trieble, CNRH; and Tex Vedebedes

**CALL ORDER**

Chair Machado called the seventh regular meeting of the year 2001 to order at 10:10 am by recognizing the four Commissioners present, Commissioners Lujuwai, Neff, Coloma-Agaran and Chair Machado thereby establishing a quorum.

**I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Coloma-Agaran moved to amend the agenda moving Item II - EXECUTIVE SESSION to after Item VI - ADMINISTRATION.  
Seconded by Commissioner Neff

**ACTION:** Motion approved by the four Commissioners present.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2001 MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Luŷuwai moved to approve the June 15, 2001 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Coloma-Agaran.

**ACTION:** Motion approved by the four Commissioners present.

## **III. CULTURE, RESTORATION AND OCEAN RESOURCES**

### **A. Restoration Volunteer Program Presentation**

Paul Higashino, Restoration Program Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Restoration Volunteer program.

The Restoration Volunteer Program serves the objectives of the Kahōŷolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in four ways.

- (1) The program gets the public involved. Volunteers are from community groups from all the islands and California as well as youth groups from Waianae High School, Boy Scouts, Ameri-Corp, DLNR YCC programs, and more.
- (2) The program supports the goals and objectives of the Restoration Program. These goals and objectives are to re-vegetation the island, control erosion and alien species, conserve current natural resources, collect seeds, and restore the native eco-system on the island.
- (3) The program provides a means of educating as well as providing information to the public about Kahōŷolawe. The volunteers are told about its Natural History, the background on how the KIRC evolved into what it is today, and the clean up itself.
- (4) The program helps build a support network of public volunteers as well as fosters a working relationship with resource professionals.

Paul then went over the recruitment and tracking of volunteers. The KIRC website, word of mouth, past volunteers and workers at Maui Technical Office are some of the ways word gets out that the KIRC has a volunteer program. After contact and a work trip is scheduled, the Volunteer Packets are mailed to the group leader or each volunteer prior to the work trip. The packet contains information on (1) Volunteer Responsibilities (2) the KIRC Volunteer Agreement (3) Waivers (4) and trip preparation information (what to bring and what not to bring). There is also a map of Kahōŷolawe. Each work trip is usually 4 days, Monday thru Thursday. Overnights are discouraged due to the cost factor. Paul did say that there are people who do go to the island for the day but they are usually resource people who provide advice and expertise to the restoration staff. Currently, the size of the groups is about five (5) volunteers per work trip. In the future, the group size will increase to approximately eight (8) to maybe ten (10) volunteers per trip.

Paul then went over the on-island orientation, which consists of informing the volunteers of the basecamp facilities, daily UXO safety briefings, and cultural awareness. The volunteers are given handouts on Culture and the Natural History of Kahōŷolawe. The Restoration staff is working on putting together a pamphlet of plants the volunteers may plant or encounter on Kahōŷolawe.

Chair Machado asked if there would be orientations conducted prior to going on island much like the Protect Kahōŷolawe ŷOhana orientation. Paul said no because most of the groups come from the neighbor islands. He added that there is about an

hour to hour and a half at the MTO where they receive their briefing. The rest of the orientation is done on the island.

Commissioner Neff asked if the information on what is expected of the each volunteer is conveyed to the individual prior to his/her arrival on Kahoʻolawe. Paul said yes.

Paul continued his presentation by going over the current restoration programs being done by staff and volunteers such as erosion and alien species control, planting, coordinating activities with the PKO, and monitoring.

Commissioner Agaran asked what is size of a grid. Paul said 2.5 acres.

Paul then gave a program cost comparison of volunteers versus paid staff.

Commissioner Luʻuwai asked if KIRC subsidizes the volunteers' plane fare to Maui. Paul said no, the volunteer is responsible for those costs. KIRC covers the cost to and from Kahoʻolawe and costs on Kahoʻolawe (meals and berthing fees).

Paul finished off his presentation with a list of the volunteer program's accomplishments and benefits to date and the plans for the future.

In answer to Commissioners Chang and Coloma-Agaran's question on the pili grass project, Paul stated that the contractor did install the pili grass for erosion control. Commissioner Chang asked if it has helped with the erosion control on the K-1 Road. Paul said we wouldn't know until the next heavy rain. He added that he was pretty sure it was helping in other areas such as gathering more soil and debris.

Jim Putnam asked if the information packets included medical information and bringing necessary medication especially for bee stings. He was informed that all the necessary medical information is included in the packet including bee sting information.

Commissioner Neff asked whether the Ethics Policy in the packet is a Statewide policy or for volunteers. He was advised that the Ethics Policy is a State Policy governing all State Employees, which DLNR then developed and included in their packet for volunteers and KIRC included it in the Restoration Volunteer packets.

Commissioner Neff then asked if the Cultural Orientation portion is given to the volunteer before going to Kahoʻolawe. Paul said that it is given to them when they get to Kahoʻolawe and is discussed on the first night there. Commissioner Neff if there was ever a problem with a volunteer's concept of the culture orientation. He feels that the cultural philosophy is just as important as restoration. Keoni recommended including a few bullets on culture in the agreement portion of the packet. Commissioner Neff stated that his main concern is avoiding any confrontation on island. Paul said that a formal procedural policy is being worked out on the handling a confrontational situation when the safety of others may be in jeopardy.

Commissioner Neff asked what is the fishing policy for the volunteers in basecamp. Paul said there is no fishing for volunteers or KIRC Staff while on island. Keoni added that KIRC staff and volunteers abide by the same rules as everyone else at basecamp.

The Chair recognized the presence of Commissioners Chang and Sakata who came in during the Restoration Volunteer Packet presentation.

### III.3

#### IV. CLEANUP

##### A. Navy Report

ED Fairbanks introduced CDR Norman Messinger who is the Navy's current Kahōjōlawe Project Officer.

CDR Messinger had two items to add to the Navy's Report. On July 16, 2001 COMNAV Region sent a letter to ED Fairbanks designating the Luamakika area as an unescorted work area for the KIRC. A UXO Escort will no longer be required however access must be coordination through the Region and Range Control be made aware of all workers movement. The second item was concerning driving on island. It is still being worked out.

Commissioner Sakata asked, in reference to a statement made in the July 16<sup>th</sup> letter, if Luamakika, Hakioawa and the south trail would all be cleared and ready for early release of access by October 2001. Navy representatives indicated yes. ED Fairbanks asked if the Navy would still release access control even though certification is not in place. MMCM Trieble answered in the affirmative.

Commissioner Chang asked how many acres are equivalent to 162 grids, the "Free Roam" area in Luamakika. The answer was 400± and contiguous.

Commissioner Neff asked the Navy if there is anything KIRC needs to do so there are more "Free Roam" areas. MMCM Trieble replied that Navy and KIRC staff are working out which whole parcels with identifiable boundaries can be turned over for restoration. Commissioner Neff then asked with whom does the responsibility for liability fall under. MMCM Trieble stated that liability is still the Navy's until the certification package is approved. It was clarified that designated "Free Roam" areas don't only have to be planting areas. Jim Putnam stated that as areas are cleared, accessibility is then considered.

Tom McCabe gave a summary on the status of the cleanup. He stated that more areas along the northern coast have been assessed. They are preparing to do the surface sweep in Kalapakea. More clearance work was done in Kūheia and the Naval Gunfire Range as well as in the Kealaikahiki area. Kanapou has been completely cleared and QC teams are in the area and should finish soon.

The contractor has been focusing their efforts in three areas. The first area is Hakioawa. So far they have completed work in 10 of the 30 grids and GEO work is almost all done. An excavation team should be going in to do work in the next week. A 100 lb. bomb was found on the surface and will have to be blown in place.

The second area is Kealaikahiki, which is pretty much completed.

The third area is the ranch area. The Historic Property Mitigation Plan was completed; teams are finishing the recording of the artifacts in the area, and clearance work will begin when Hakioawa is done.

Tom also reported that the basecamp clearance work will begin on Monday, July 23, 2001 and should be completed by the end of September.

Jim Putnam informed the Commission that all the helicopter passenger operations would be moving to Pūjunene sometime before October 1, 2001. Therefore, KIRC and KIRC staff should plan accordingly.

Tom McCabe announced that Parsons UXB is supporting and has committed \$30,000 towards the Bishop Museum's Kahoʻolawe Exhibit at the Smithsonian. He added that a few of their subcontractors have contributed \$22,000 and is expecting \$10,000 to \$20,000 more. The KIRC thanked him for all the support in this joint effort.

Commissioner Chang asked about the status on the aerial detection. Tom stated that the reports were not promising. It would detect items, but when they went in to check it was not ordnance; there were a lot of false positives. Therefore, they are closing the project and may use the data for other than UXO clearance.

Commissioner Luʻuwai asked about using the infrared to detect water. Tom said that the test area was a small area; Jim Froneberger added the test area encompassed only 40 grids.

#### **B. Public Comment/Questions on Navy Report**

There were no public comments or questions.

### **V. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **A. Election of Vice-Chairperson**

ED Fairbanks explained that the Vice-Chairperson is not a requirement in the law, however it is deemed necessary procedurally in the event that the Chairperson is unable to be at a meeting.

Chair Machado said the election could be done by nominations or if someone would like to volunteer to serve.

There were no volunteers. Commissioner Neff nominated Commissioner Burt Sakata. Chair Machado nominated Commissioner Robert Luʻuwai. Both candidates gave a very brief speech and Commissioner Sakata noted that he is involved in many projects within the Commission as well as outside of the Commission and would be very comfortable with Commissioner Luʻuwai as Vice-Chair.

Chair Machado asked that secret balloting be done and she as Chair would not be voting. Commission Assistant Kayōnohi Lee counted the ballots and reported, four votes for Commissioner Luʻuwai and one vote for Commissioner Sakata. Chair Machado announced Commissioner Luʻuwai is the new Vice-Chair.

#### **B. Operations Report/Status Update**

##### **1. Culture & Education**

Bob Armantrout relayed Hōkūlani Holt-Padilla's thoughts on the very important visit to Kahoʻolawe by the two sailing canoes, Hōkūleʻa and Moʻolele, and also the coming together of the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) and the Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻŌhana (PKO) after 25 years.

Also, Kalei has been working closely with the clean up efforts in Hakioawa and was present during the anomaly excavation at the HaleoPapa Heiau. Keoni added that the anomaly was close to a wall with tacks to hold down screening to stabilize the burial. KIRC stopped the excavation work and excluded the area so it would be just a surface clearance and not Tier II clearance. This occurrence brought to light the need for the stabilization of the HaleoPapa. So a letter has been sent to the Navy to go ahead and survey the area as an exception and proceed with certification. In the mean time if the KIRC and the PKO can come

up with a plan to stabilize the HaleoPapa so it would only be disturbed once, then KIRC may ask the Navy to come back before the project is completed to assist us in the subsurface detection and whatever re-burial plan that is agreed upon. Kalei will be working with the PKO in developing a burial treatment plan that may include structural stabilization.

Commissioner Neff asked if the \$10,000 in the budget for site stabilization contract would be used for the HaleoPapa stabilization plan. ED Fairbanks said that would not be necessary for coming up with a plan. KIRC will provide staff support to bring everyone together so an agreement can be made. However, if there are expenses to do the work then we can use the budgeted amount. Commissioner Machado added that this work should be a top priority and should more money be needed to accomplish the stabilization of the site, then the budget could be amended.

Bob informed everyone that Kalei finished the new KIRC display for the Kahului Airport and it is on display at Gate 29, which beyond the Hawaiian Air area.

## **2. Ocean Resources**

Bob informed the Commission that the Administrative Rules have been approved by the Governor to go to public hearings. Commissioner Machado asked if a schedule of meetings would be ready by the next Commission meeting. Keoni explained that the Rules would have only one public hearing, which will be on Maui. However, there is a plan to have preliminary informal meetings with active fishing hui prior to going to public hearing. A cover letter has been prepared and the Rules will then be mailed and arrangements made to meet informally with the hui. The informal meeting schedule will be provided to the Commission.

Bob reported that the Ocean Program Manager made contacts when she attended the Marine Conservation Biology Society Symposium in San Francisco, which could develop into future partnering projects for the KIRC.

Monk seal pup update - Samantha assisted the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) in providing the pup with emergency medical attention. It had what appeared to be infected cuts.

The boathouse project is moving forward. Charlie will be meeting with the architect next week. Staff has met with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) personnel to put together what needs to be done to survey the area.

## **3. Risk and Remediation**

ED Fairbanks reported that he, Stanton, and John continue to work on correspondence with the Navy.

Stanton is also working more with Kristin and Bob on the Access and Risk Management Plan (ARMP), which have to take into account all the different operational aspects of the reserve.

John continues to spend much of his time on island. He is the KIRC's presence on island and he assists in anyway possible so clean up operations run a little smoother.

ED Fairbanks reported that several items have been found in Hakioawa, however two 100 lb bombs and a portion of a 500 lb. bomb were of some concern. One of the 100 lb. bombs is approximately one grid away from the HaleoPapa. The other 100 lb. bomb is far enough away from the Hale Mua but while clearing the area, a previously undiscovered house platform was found about 2-meters away from the bomb. There were plans to blow in place (BIP) both 100 lb. bombs however due to the new discovery of the house platform, KIRC will have to review their plan prior to the BIP which is planned for the end of August.

Also, an anomaly was found in Kahualele (the Mua Haʻīkupuna) in the corner facing Lanāji. It was decided to go ahead with the excavation and remove the anomaly with Kalei monitoring. Commissioner Neff recommended that the *Kahu* for that area be notified. He said that if there was a question on what it might be, the *Kahu* would know. ED Fairbanks did say that if it is decided not to excavate to see what the anomaly is, it will be considered an exception area and so noted in the certification.

ED Fairbanks informed the Commission that John Effland and Commissioner Sakata has been working with PKO members to clean out PKO items in Hakioawa so clearance can be done in the area around the shed that was designated as temporary exception areas by the Navy. There has been an agreement with the PKO to move and/or demolish items. Commissioner Sakata, Kalei, Kim Birnie, Davianna McGregor, and John will be marking items to be saved and so far it is the water tank and the medicine cabinet and some lockers, which would take a day to do. In relation to all this work, Deepak Neupane will be working with the PKO design team on what, where and how they want things.

Ed Fairbanks updated the Commissioners on the burned wiliwili trees. The burn occurred when the contractor did a BIP in Moaʻyula just one grid away from the largest grove of wiliwili trees on the island. When the contractor proceeded with the BIP the white phosphorous ignited and the fire spread to the grove killing several trees. Based on this occurrence KIRC staff has raised the issue with the Navy to review their SOP's to avoid a similar situation in the future. Paul added that there were 50 trees in the grove and 26 were burned. The trees were tagged and Restoration staff will monitor them.

#### **4. Engineering & Information Services**

Bob reported that the Notice To Bidders did go out on the Water Catchment System and there were four firms who have submitted Intent To Bid letters.

Bureau of Land Management will install the weather stations on island in August.

#### **5. Island Operations**

Bob informed the Commission that Kristin is working with Stanton on creating three sections of the Access & Risk Management Plan (ARMP). She has also been spending time on Kahoʻjolaʻwe with Paul and John as well.

#### **6. Administration**

Bob reported the total interest received during FY01 was \$1.145 million. The average monthly balance for the month of May 2001 was \$22.93 million.

Bob also informed the Commission that a new expense tracking system was implemented and will facilitate financial management and control of the approved FY02 budget.

ED Fairbanks asked that new dates for the August and November Public Commission meeting dates, be confirmed. After a short discussion, Commissioners confirmed the following; August 31, 2001 at 10:00 am in Honolulu and November 15, 2001 in Kona, time and place to be announced.

Commissioner Coloma-Agaran asked if there is a schedule for visits to Kahoʻolawe. ED Fairbanks stated that he would work on a schedule.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FYI/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no announcements and no one from the public in attendance at this point.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Neff moved to resolve into Executive Session, at 11:57 am, in compliance with HRS 92- 4 &5, to review matters regarding duties and liabilities relating to Title X Cleanup, personnel issues, and strategic and transitional planning. Seconded by Commissioner Sakata.

Executive Session concluded at 12:16 pm. Personnel matters and future planning was discussed and no decisions were made.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Chang moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sakata.

**ACTION:** Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.